

REMARKS

The elements of claim 7 have been incorporated into claim 1. With respect to the double-patenting rejection I, a Terminal Disclaimer over copending U.S. application no. 10/588,396 is attached.

With respect to double-patenting rejection II, a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. patent 7,327,821 is attached.

With respect to the rejection set forth in paragraph 3 on page 4 of the Office Action, the present application and U.S. patent 7,327,821 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. Therefore, the rejection is overcome over § 103(c).

With respect to the rejection set forth in paragraph 4 based on Atsumi, it was published on February 26, 2004, which is later than the PCT filing date of this application, which is February 4, 2004. Therefore, Atsumi is not prior art here. Thus, the only possible legitimate rejection is the combination of Hayashi in view of Anayama.

Hayashi is silent about the incorporation of the density-increasing agent into the neutron shielding material composition, as pointed out in the Office Action at page 8. Hayashi is silent about how to adjust the density of the composition in the system containing a resin, a refractory material, and a density-increasing agent.

Anayama is also silent about how to adjust the density of the composition in the system containing both the density-increasing agents and the refractory material. Anayama only discloses in the fifth paragraph on page 3, "The higher the density of the inorganic material, the greater the shielding effect thereof on gamma- and X-rays is". As shown in the table of working examples, the molded articles nos. 2-7, which contain high-density inorganic material, have a density of from 2 g/cm³ to 4 g/cm³, which is much higher than that of the molded article no. 1 (1.35 g/cm³) made from the base resin i.e., epoxy resin alone.

In contrast, the claimed composition maintains the density of the base resin even though the composition contains a density-increasing agent having higher density than that of the refractory material. Thus, pursuant to claim 1, the replacement of the refractory material by the density-increasing agent allows the incorporation of the resin component have high hydrogen content while keeping the density value.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7 and to incorporate the relationship of the density among the base resin, the refractory material, and the density-increasing agent. This amendment is supported by paragraphs 57-59 of the specification as filed.

Respectfully submitted,

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